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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/594,657	05/29/2007	Hans Grundei	F0506-1US (E 2452 US)	1641
54380 7590 03/25/2010 FLASTER/GREENBERG P.C. Four Penn Center 1600 John F. Kennedy Boulevard 2nd Floor PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103			EXAMINER MONTANO, MELISSA ANN	
			ART UNIT 3738	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 03/25/2010	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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DETAILED ACTION

1. The request for reconsideration filed 1/6/2010 has been entered. Claims 1-14 remain pending in the current application.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 1/6/2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

3. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., constant and consistent increase of the seal from a part of the bush facing in the extracorporal direction to the part facing the intracorporal direction) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). The examiner maintains that Reswick clearly teaches a spacer embodied as a rigid bush (20) with a coupling element (26) sealed in the intracorporal direction to which the extracorporal coupling device (28 in combination with 30) may be coupled, wherein, the bush (20) widens out significantly from the end thereof facing the extracorporal direction to the end thereof facing the intracorporal direction and comprises a smooth surface (fig. 2), as claimed by applicant. The examiner also notes that frusto-conical connections are well known in the art.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

Art Unit: 3738

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 4,158,895 to Reswick et al. (Reswick).

Reswick teaches a coupling for use in an apparatus for connecting a prosthesis to the bone of a stump of an amputated limb (abstract). The apparatus includes a tubular femoral socket (16) having an open lower end adapted to be inserted within the intramedullary cavity of the bone (col. 1, lines 46-48). Reswick also teaches a sleeve (spacer/bush; 20) of bio-compatible material that is carried below the socket (16), for the purpose of providing a compatible interface between the implanted socket and the skin line which heals therearound (col. 2, lines 41-44). The examiner asserts that the sleeve (spacer/bush; 20) is shown to widen out significantly from the end facing the extracorporeal direction to the end facing the intracorporeal direction and comprises a smooth surface (fig. 1). An internal annular groove (coupling element; 26) is provided for receiving balls (28) carried within a lock pin (30) for securing a prosthesis (32) to the stump (10) (col. 2, lines 64-67). The examiner asserts that this configuration would necessarily provide a seal in the intracorporeal direction between the annular groove (coupling element; 26) and the balls of the locking pin (extracorporeal coupling device; 28 in combination with 30), as claimed by applicant.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 3738

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 2-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reswick.

Reswick teaches the mounting according to claim 1. Reswick also teaches a locking pin (adaptation tube; 30) which is shown to be configured to reach inside the sleeve (bush; 20) and be seated in an interference fit (fig. 1). The examiner asserts that the locking pin (adaptation tube; 30) is necessarily capable of being removable, if provided with the proper tools. Further, Reswick depicts the locking pin (adaptation tube; 30) as comprising a length so that it is situated with its distal front edge on a shoulder, which is formed on the extracorporeal device (28 in combination with 30). See figure below.

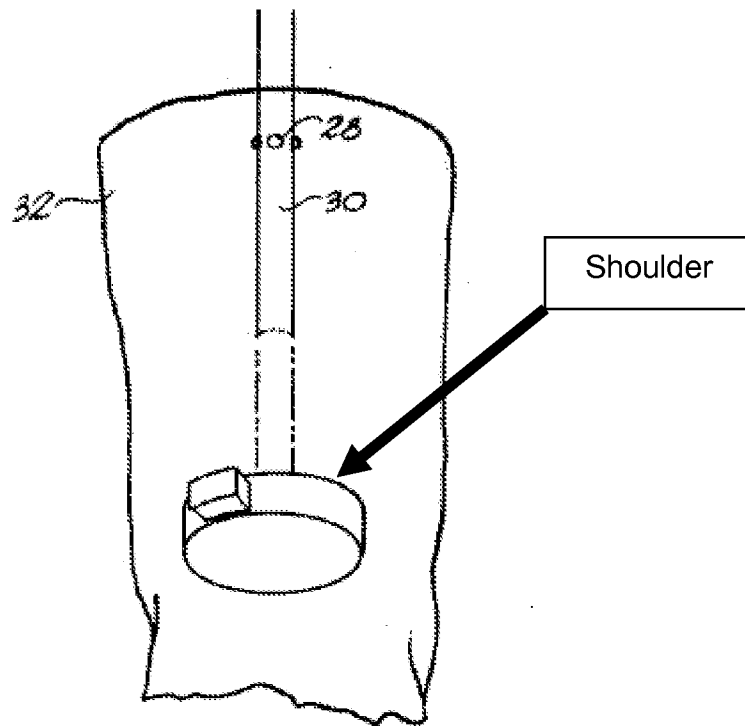


Fig. 1

However, Reswick does not explicitly teach the claimed length ratio of the widening bush or specific materials used to form the components of the device.

Though Reswick does not explicitly teach the claimed length ratio, the examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to determine this ratio through routine experimentation, particularly in the absence of any disclosed criticality for the claimed ratio, in order to obtain the desired coupling strength and ease of connection. See MPEP § 2144.04. Further, it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233.

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Reswick also teaches that the use of any suitable bio-compatible conventional material (col. 2, lines col. 3, lines 3-5 and lines 23-32), for the purpose of providing a compatible interface between the implanted socket and the skin line which heals therearound (col. 2, lines 41-46) . Reswick discloses the claimed invention except for that the adaptation tube or bush is made from or coated with silver, titanium, silver-plating, hydroxylapatite, calcium phosphate, plasma titanium spray, polyurethane, or includes an antibacterial effect. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the use of these materials, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416 (For example, see US Patent No. 4,615,705 to Scales et al., US Patent Application Publication No. 203/0171825 A1 to Blunn et al., *Cementless Titanium Tapered-Wedge Femoral Stem* by Marshall et al., and WO 99/64491 to Spaans et al.).

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MELISSA MONTANO whose telephone number is (571)270-5785. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00AM-5:00PM EDT.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott can be reached on (571)272-4754. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MM

/Bruce E Snow/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3738